

Ministry  
of the  
EnvironmentHon. George A. Kerr, Q.C.,  
MinisterEverett Biggs,  
Deputy Minister

# about pesticides

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## THE AMERICAN COCKROACH

### APPEARANCE

The American cockroach is a large insect 3.0 - 4.5 cm. (1 - 1.5 inches) long, shiny red-brown, with a paler yellow area around the edge of the pronotum (area immediately behind the head). The fully developed wings extend well beyond the tip of the abdomen in the male but only just overlap the abdomen in the female. This species can fly, but only for short distances; these flights are rare and sluggish.

### LIFE HISTORY

There is an average of 16 eggs in each egg capsule, the capsule is carried for a period of 6 - 25 hours before being deposited by the female. Each female is capable of producing from 10 - 15 egg capsules in a period of 10 months.

The incubation period of the egg ranges from 24 - 59 days, depending on the temperature. After the young cockroach emerges, it undergoes 7 - 10 molts, before maturity. The adult life span varies from 102 - 588 days. There is usually one generation per year.

### HABITS

The American cockroach prefers a warm moist environment, and is frequently found in restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores, and all premises where food is prepared and stored. It may be found in basements or other areas of a home, wherever food is available. During the summer months, it may be found foraging in garbage dumps at night.

### PREVENTION

1. Inspect cartons, baskets, etc. entering your home for adult roaches or egg capsules.
2. Remove or repair damp areas in the home.
3. Maintain good housekeeping practices; clean up crumbs, spills, etc.

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CHEMICAL

Premixed Ready-to-use Sprays

1. Baygon (propoxur) 1%
2. chlordane 2%
3. diazinon 0.5%

These preformulated sprays which are normally oil based may dull waxed or varnished surfaces. Washing or waxing after the chemical becomes ineffective (about 3 weeks after application) will usually return the shine to these surfaces.

Dusts

1. Baygon (propoxur) - bait
2. chlordane 5%
3. diazinon 2%
4. Drione

Residual applications should be made to cracks, crevices, and other hiding places.

Never apply insecticide to food dishes or food handling utensils. Remove these from storage areas which require treatment. Cover shelves after treatment with shelf paper before replacing food or utensils.

This publication has been endorsed by the Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee.